

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, November 22, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, November 22, 1843.

My dear Mr. Blair, Your letter of the 11th instant is received, and I am happy at last that the mortgages has reached you.

Not having the same intimate acquaintance with Mr. Rives that I had with you, I did not know but the delay of these papers might raise in his mind distrust that all was not as it should be. I knew, let me be called off at any time your debt and his was well secured, but I wanted Mr. Rives to be in poss[ess]ion of those papers that he might also know it. . . .

My dear Blair I can say to you confidentially, unless relieved from some of my afflictions under which I now labour I cannot remain long here. If providence will spare me to hear of your election, and to see the result of the vote in congress on the subject of the fine imposed by Judge Hall I will be thankfull. I hope some friend will press it to a final vote. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson unite with me in kind salutations to you, my dear Mrs. Blair and daughter. yr. friend sincerely,

P.S. I am delighted to hear of your fair prospects for a Priam out of Emuckfau. Taladega has improved much, so much that my friend Major Win. Armstrong and Govr. Butler of So. Carolina has taken her and a two year old filly to arkansa, with a two year old stud by Merman, half brother of Talladega. They are three fine animals. From my confinement and the inattention of my old groom Dunwodie, and to meet a pressing demand against my son growing out of a swindling act of S. Donelson in the case of his assumed debt to Mr.

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Eliason, I parted with them. I have grappled with every debt Andrew owes and I trust will be able to meet them.

My last years crop of cotton from the Hermitage was shipped to England by my friend Col. White with the most friendly view—it was unfortunate, it sold for the precise sum it would have brought at N. Orleans, and the expence of freight, insurance, commission, and loss of upwards of 3000 lbs. in weight swallowed the whole almost of the proceeds. This has shortened our funds. Our crop of cotton both here and below is good, but the continued rains has prevented us from getting it out, and of course much of the under bowles have rotted. it may be, unless cotton rises, that we may be pressed in meeting our engagements. I therefore request you to consult Mr. Rives and with candeur of a friend say to me, whether, on receiving the interest, you can, without injury, postpone the instalment due next may for one year—if you can our means will meet every debt Andrew owes and I am responsible for, leaving your debt as 0268 244 the only incumbrance on us or our property. The question I ask, have you use for this instalment, if you have it shall be forthcoming—if you have it to loan, then it will be an obligation to pay interest on the instalment for another year, when the product of our farms will be well able to meet half the debt with the accruing interest, even at the present low price of cotton. Note, that this indulgence is only asked if it can be done without injury or inconvenience to you, not else, and it depends upon the price of cotton and whether we can House our crop, whether it will be necessary. I have a family of ten likely and valuable negroes I can spare here without injury, and my enquiry is, looking a head, that if necessary, we will meet this debt punctually, grateful to you and Mr. Rives for your liberality and kindness in making us the loan, for which we will forever be gratefull

A. J. jnr is just returned from below, the crop good but incessant rain has prevented there, like here, from getting the cotton Housed.